

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF JOHN MAURICE
MASSETTI

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember and honor John Maurice Massetti, a leader and tireless advocate for working families, who passed away on December 4th. John's devotion to his family, friends and to causes that helped others is an inspiration to so many people in Minnesota. He will be missed by everyone who was fortunate enough to know him.

Throughout his life, John brought integrity and a sense of obligation to his fellow workers, as well as to his community. For 20 of his 38 years working with Northwest Airlines, he proudly served his brothers and sisters at District 143 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers as secretary-treasurer of the union. During negotiations, he always put the needs of working families first. John's honest leadership instilled energy and loyalty that was contagious, helping to develop the next generation of labor leaders. Retirement did not slow him down.

John's desire to help others extended well beyond his union family. He made a strong personal commitment to Guide Dogs of America, helping to raise thousands of dollars to provide free guide dogs and instruction in their use to blind and visually impaired men and women across the country. His success at raising funds at the Annual Guide Dogs of America Golf Tournament and the "Hawgs for Dogs" motorcycle ride are legendary.

Both he and his wife, Mary were also active in delivering Meals on Wheels among other volunteer activities.

I consider myself privileged to call John a friend, and was often witness to his enthusiastic participation in volunteer efforts he believed in. We can all be proud of the life John lived, because his was a life dedicated to working for the good of all people.

My thoughts and prayers are with John's wife, Mary; his son, Michael; his mother, Aida; his stepdaughter, Candice and his many relatives, friends and colleagues who loved him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of John Massetti.

HONORING DAVID THOMAS ON HIS
CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO
THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 16

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected represent-

ative to the sixteenth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Thomas was not able to realize his dream, he has been able to make an impact on others' lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Thomas traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 16.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Thomas is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND STEPHEN
JOHN THURSTON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Stephen John Thurston, a man who has an unprecedented record of service in the Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Thurston is a third generation preacher and pastor in the historic New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. Thurston is also the youngest reverend to be named President of the National Baptist Convention of America, Incorporated.

Reverend Thurston is a graduate of Bishop College in Dallas, Texas where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion in 1975. He is also a highly sought after revivalist, and his ministry has affected the lives of people as far away as the Caribbean and Africa.

Two of the numerous honors Reverend Thurston has received are America's Best and Brightest Young Business and Professional Men by Dollars and Sense magazine and Coordinator for Baptist World Alliance in Seoul, Korea.

On November 29th, 2005, Reverend Thurston will be in San Antonio as a guest preacher for the Baptist Ministers Union of San Antonio and Vicinity Communities year end service. San Antonio is honored to host Reverend Thurston and is proud to have him as a guest preacher.

SECURING AIRCRAFT COCKPITS
AGAINST LASERS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation before us,

H.R. 1400, the Securing Aircraft Cockpits Against Lasers Act of 2005. I thank the distinguished chairman from Wisconsin, Mr. SEN-SENBRENNER for his thoughtful inclusion of a definition of the term "laser pointer" at my suggestion. This bipartisan gesture is very important to the crafting of comprehensive and conscientious criminal measures.

I kept my strict constitutionalist hat on and remained mindful to the fact that legislation should be as narrowly tailored as possible—especially with respect to exacting criminal penalties.

I understand that since 1990, there have been more than 400 incidents proscribed in this bill and more than 100 since November 2004. Furthermore, I understand the relative threat that the act proscribed in this bill poses for pilots—FAA research has shown that laser illuminations can temporarily disorient or disable a pilot during critical stages of flight such as landing or take-off, and in some cases, may cause permanent damage. This legislation could provide the legislative fix. I thank the chairman for his effort to address my concern with potential vagueness in its provisions.

Mr. Speaker, for the above reasons, I do support this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY,
AND EXAMPLE OF ISRAELI
PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK
RABIN ON THE 10TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF HIS DEATH

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 535, a resolution honoring the memory of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his assassination.

Prime Minister Rabin served the people of Israel for two terms as Prime Minister, as well as previous roles as Ambassador to the United States, Minister of Defense and Member of the Knesset. Among his many accomplishments, it is his role as a visionary peacemaker which has ensured him a place of honor in history.

Mr. Rabin began his career during Israel's War for Independence as a member of the Jewish Defense Forces. For the next 19 years, he held various positions in the Israeli Defense Forces, ending his tenure there as chief of staff. In this role, he was able to strengthen Israel's ties with the United States, fostering the special relationship which continues to benefit these two nations.

Mr. Rabin also had a distinguished five-year tenure as Israeli ambassador to the United States. At the height of the Cold War, he encouraged Israel to stand strongly on the side of the United States. The relationship between the two countries blossomed in this period as

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